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BURLINGTON CLERK  
TREASURER'S OFFICE

March 8, 2006

Burlington City Council  
City Hall  
Burlington, Vermont

Dear Councilors:

We appreciated the opportunity to speak before you last month about the possibility of building new inpatient psychiatric capacity at Fletcher Allen Health Care. I am writing to update you on how things are progressing.

Secretary Cindy LaWare and members of our Mental Health Futures team met recently with Ken Schatz and representatives from Fletcher Allen and the Howard Center to discuss approaches to actively engage the public. We agreed that next steps should include meeting with Burlington City department heads, providing you with regular updates such as this letter, and arranging meetings with neighborhood planning assemblies and delegations of elected officials. We also will be meeting with the business community, social service agencies and other concerned stakeholders.

As you know, the idea of additional psychiatric inpatient capacity at Fletcher Allen really is a concept at this point, and not yet a proposal. We are in the process of gathering information about the number of beds needed and the feasibility of possible sites, to come up with a proposal for discussion. We are taking steps to engage the public early in this process, however, so that any proposal that emerges is informed by the needs and insights of the community. We have taken to heart your message about the importance of public engagement, and especially the importance of not waiting until we have a developed plan.

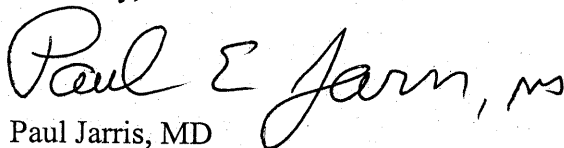
There are two consultants currently at work on the Fletcher Allen possibilities:

- Architecture+ ("Architecture Plus," [www.aplususa.com](http://www.aplususa.com)) of Troy, NY, is working to come up with specifics of what would be needed for inpatient services and what sites might be available at Fletcher Allen. The firm also is examining the possibility of additional capacity at Rutland Regional Medical Center and at Retreat Healthcare in Brattleboro. The firm's principals have held numerous meetings to gather input from a wide variety of stakeholders who have inpatient experience, and those meetings continue. Tentative space plans have been circulated and commented on at these meetings.

- Milliman, Inc. ([www.milliman.com](http://www.milliman.com)), the Wisconsin-based actuarial consulting firm, is studying Vermont's need for inpatient beds, 10 years into the future, including community services capacities and general hospital psychiatric bed needs. It is reviewing Vermont hospital statistics and other mental health care data and is meeting with a variety of stakeholders who can provide insight into how the data should be interpreted. Milliman's report will be an important basis for the conclusions drawn by Architecture Plus.

We will be providing additional information to you and to the people of Burlington in the coming weeks and months, and are developing ways to gain insight into community needs and concerns. As we go forward, we would appreciate receiving any questions or suggestions you have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E Jarris, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Jarris, MD  
Commissioner

cc: Mayor Peter Clavelle, Mayor-elect Bob Kiss